

Message Text

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44

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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P R 051546Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7982

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, UN, SF, AO, WA

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA

REF: (A) STATE 027343; (B) GENEVA 478

1. MISOFF INFORMED BY HIGH UNHCR OFFICIAL CONCERNED THAT UNHCR HAS NO RPT NO PLANS PRESENTLY CONCERNING ANGOLAN REFUGEES WHO HAD EARLIER FLED TO NAMIBIA. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, UNHCR HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED SEND ONE OF ITS OFFICIALS, JOHN KELLY, TO NAMIBIA TO INVESTIGATE AND ASSIST SAG IN RESOLVING PROBLEM. HOWEVER, CONSIDERATIONS LARGELY OF POLITICAL NATURE INTERVENED AND UNHCR FELT CONSTRAINED TO CANCEL MISSION AT LAST MOMENT.

2. SINCE THEN, UNHCR HAS BEEN INFORMED BY SAG THAT BULK OF ANGOLANS HAVE SIGNED VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION DOCUMENTS AND HAVE TRANSFERRED ACROSS ANGOLAN BORDER TO CALAI (PH.). SAG ALSO REPORTED THAT RECENTLY
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ARRIVED GROUP OF 109 ANGOLANS DID NOT SIGN VOLUNTARY

REPATRIATION DOCUMENTS, BUT DID NOT OBJECT TO REPATRIATION AND WERE ALSO MOVED TO CALAI. HOWEVER, IT IS CHECKING REPORT RECEIVED FROM ICRC REP DE ROUGEMONT, WHO HAS MADE PERIODIC VISITS TO AREA, TO EFFECT THAT LATTER GROUP STILL ABOARD SHIP AT WALVIS BAY. (UNHCR INCLINED PLACE GREATER CONFIDENCE IN REPORT OF SAG WHICH HAS SCENE UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE.)

3. ONLY OTHER PROBLEM, ACCORDING UNHCR, CONCERNED 26 CAPE VERDIANS WHO WERE AMONG MOST RECENT REFUGEES AND ARE NOW EN ROUTE BY SEA TO PORTUGAL, WHENCE THEY WILL BE REPATRIATED.

4. WITH ALL ANGOLAN AND PORTUGUESE REFUGEES THUS REPATRIATED (POSSIBLY EXCEPTING THE 109), UNHCR FEELS PROBLEM NO LONGER EXISTS AND, BARRING UNPREDICTABLE DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS RENEWED FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA, PLANS NO FURTHER ACTION AT THIS TIME.DALE

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